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General Assembly
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A/50/937
S/1996/301
18 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 42, 44 and 146
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 17 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you (see annex).

It would be appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42, 44, and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

During the past few days, southern Lebanon and Beirut have been targets of savage attacks from the air, sea and land by Israeli armed forces, whereby the war and bloodshed in the Middle East have found new dimensions. The recent aggression by the Zionist regime has reportedly brought about the occupation of other areas of Lebanon, killing and injuring of hundreds of civilians, including women and children, displacement of about 500,000 residents from southern Lebanon, as well as destruction of a large number of economic and civilian installations, resulting in heavy material damage to that country. The dangerous dimensions of the Israeli aggression are so massive that they bring back the bitter memories of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The scope of the ongoing Israeli aggression is feared to spread even further.

The perpetration of acts of terrorism and the imposition of inhumane measures by the Israeli military are neither surprising nor a new phenomenon - for they are integral to the expansionist and aggressive nature of this regime, which has disregarded the will of the international community and violated numerous General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 425 (1978) with impunity.

I should reiterate that the primary reasons for the continuation of the Middle East crisis is the absence of an effective measure to deal with Israeli aggression and acts of terrorism, on the one hand, and the disregard of the legitimate demands of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims in the region, on the other. It is in this context that embracing unrealistic and unfair solutions have, in practice, precluded the return of durable peace and stability to the region. Furthermore, the attempt to label as terrorism the just struggle of Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine for freedom and liberation of their own land from foreign occupation, and the policy of certain States to remain aloof and silent to savage, inhumane and terrorist acts of the zionist regime can never be considered an appropriate approach in dealing with the long-standing issue of the Middle East. Such an approach results only in the further complication of the issue and encouragement of the occupying Power to persist in its violent and suppressive policies. It is imperative for the international community to prevent, on the basis of the lessons learned, the continuation of such criminal acts by Israel, and to present a just solution which would bring lasting peace and security to the region.

I have no doubt that continuation of the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence by the Zionist regime, interference in its internal affairs through acts of terrorism and the use of mercenaries, strangulation of Palestinians, and inflicting fear and hardship on them will not only fail to de-escalate tension and bring stability to the region, but will also expand the scope of the conflict. Continuation of

aggression, massacre and violation of the most basic human rights by Israel entails dangerous consequences which render your task extremely critical. I call upon you to use your authority and good offices to double the efforts to end the Israeli aggression and return peace and stability to Lebanon.

Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/50/938
S/1996/302
18 April 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 140
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 17 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April 1996, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement concerning the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain Western States issued by the Joint Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity, held on Friday, 11 April 1996, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 140, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Arab Group

ANNEX

Statement issued on Friday, 11 April 1996, by the Joint Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity responsible for dealing with the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain Western States

On the evening of 11 April 1996, the Ministerial Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States and the Ministerial Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity responsible for dealing with the Lockerbie crisis held a joint meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

Having considered the latest developments related to the crisis, and having heard details from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity concerning the efforts that the two organizations have made to bring about a peaceful and just solution to this crisis,

Having heard a statement by the head of the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya detailing the proposals and initiatives put forward by his country in response to the obligations relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 731 (1992),

The members of the two Committees:

- Reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity expressing solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and support for its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the context of respect for the principles of international law and for Libyan national sovereignty;

- Express their deep concern about the human losses and material damage suffered by the Libyan people and the peoples of neighbouring States as a result of the coercive measures imposed against Libya pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993);

- Affirm in this regard the dangers resulting from the insistence of the Western countries concerned on the continued imposition of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the threats that the continuation of the crisis could pose to regional and international peace and security;

- Express their appreciation to the majority of the world's States for their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in this crisis, referring in this regard to paragraph 163 of the final document issued by the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Colombia on 20 October 1995;

- Call upon the three Western countries concerned to show flexibility and respond positively to the Libyan position and the efforts and initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiation with a view to reaching a peaceful solution of the crisis in accordance with Article 33 of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for the settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation and judicial settlement.

- Reaffirm the constructive nature of the proposal put forward in resolution 5373 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 27 March 1994 at its one-hundred and first ordinary session, that the two suspects should be judged equitably by the Scottish judges in conformity with Scottish law, at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague;

- Urge the Security Council to use this practical proposal as a basis for resolving the crisis and to reconsider its resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) with a view to lifting the sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

- Assign to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity responsibility for coordinating their joint efforts with the States concerned, States members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with the plan of action for dealing with the situation, in order to prevent any escalation of the crisis and to reach a peaceful and just settlement acceptable to all the parties concerned.

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A/50/939
19 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 125

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/655/Add.1), which contains the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the 12-month period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. MINURSO was established by the Security Council in its resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991 with the purpose of organizing and conducting a referendum to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose freely between independence or integration with Morocco. Its mandate has been extended by subsequent Council resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 1042 (1996) of 31 January 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission for four months, from 1 February to 31 May 1996.

3. As indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12 of document A/50/655/Add.1, total resources made available to the Mission since inception to 31 May 1996 amount to $240,834,200 gross; estimated expenditures amount to $238,215,600 gross; and credits returned to Member States amount to $2,618,600 gross. As of 15 March 1996, a total of $231,320,712 had been assessed on Member States, while contributions received totalled $170,852,269. Outstanding assessments were reduced by $630,000 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/83 of 15 December 1995.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed during its hearings that outstanding assessments, as at 31 March 1996, totalled $61.7 million. Furthermore, as regards the $8 million borrowed from other peace-keeping accounts to provide

necessary cash flow to the Mission, indicated in paragraph 12 of the report, the Advisory Committee was informed that $5 million had been paid back by MINURSO.

5. No trust fund has been established in support of the Mission. However, voluntary contributions in kind have been provided to MINURSO by the Governments of Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco, as well as by the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Rio de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), whose respective annual value is estimated at $2,058,500, $30,000, $7,925,700 and $390,000, as indicated in annex V to the report of the Secretary-General.

6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/247 of 20 July 1995, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a rate not to exceed $5,592,500 gross ($5,096,100 net) per month for the operation of the Mission after 30 September 1995, that amount to be assessed on Member States subject to the extension of the mandate of MINURSO beyond that date. An amount of $42,001,136 was subsequently assessed for the period from 1 October 1995 to 31 May 1996.

7. In the light of the Secretary-General's report of 19 January 1996 to the Security Council on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/1996/43), the Advisory Committee sought further information from the Secretariat regarding the progress of the identification process. The Secretary-General proposed two options to the Security Council. The first one, extending the mandate for four months ending 31 May 1996, was to provide enough time for the resumption of the identification process and opportunity to test the will of the parties "in deed rather than in words". The second one was to prepare plans for the phased withdrawal of MINURSO, since further extensions were unjustifiable without imposing conditions in terms of solutions to problems by specified dates.

8. The Security Council, in its resolution 1042 (1996) while extending the mandate of the Mission for four months ending 31 May 1996, states the following in its paragraph 7:

> "Supports the intention of the Secretary-General, in the absence of meaningful progress towards completion of the Settlement Plan, to bring the situation to the immediate attention of the Council, and invites the Secretary-General in this eventuality to submit for consideration a detailed programme for a phased withdrawal of MINURSO, in accordance with the second option contained in his report of 19 January 1996."

9. The next report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution is to be submitted to the Security Council by 15 May 1996.

10. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations was sending a planning team to the area in mid-April in order to assess the situation in Western Sahara and to look at different options regarding a possible down-sizing of the Mission, as well as the logistic and financial implications, in the absence of progress in the identification process.

11. However, the Advisory Committee considered the budget presented in document A/50/655/Add.1, which assumes the continuation of the Mission and provides the

cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, amounting to $52,335,000 gross ($48,456,000 net). Of this amount, 28 per cent is based on standard costs and ratios, while 72 per cent relates to mission-specific requirements. The budget is $14,775,000 gross lower than that of the previous 12-month period, a decrease of 22 per cent, owing to lower requirements under military and civilian personnel costs, air operations, other equipment and the non-provision for the support account for peace-keeping operations.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that based on the 8.5 per cent of the civilian staff component of MINURSO, the amount that would have been included in the budget estimates for the funding of the support account would have amounted to $2,086,800.

13. Item 1 of the budget, Military personnel costs, amounting to $8,825,000, reflects the fully authorized strength of 240 military observers. Item 2, Civilian personnel costs, amounting to $28,089,000, provides for 160 civilian police monitors, 320 international staff, 90 local staff and 12 Organization of African Unity (OAU) observers. However, an overall estimated vacancy rate of 25 per cent was factored in when elaborating the civilian personnel costs, in the light of the actual and anticipated decrease in the identification activities and the uncertainty of their resumption.

14. Furthermore, upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 31 March 1996, 112 posts out of the 320 authorized posts were vacant, thus a vacancy rate of 35 per cent for international civilian staff. This includes 55 staff at the Professional level and above actually on board out of the 132 authorized posts; and 152 General Service and other staff on board out of the 188 authorized posts. As regards civilian police, only 64 out of the 160 authorized had been deployed as of 31 March 1996. Even though the budget provides for a further deployment to 100 civilian police by July 1996, the costing in the budget does not provide for full incumbency in this respect, but factors in a 7.5 per cent vacancy rate for the whole period.

15. The Advisory Committee believes that the vacancy rate may increase in view of the current situation and developments in Western Sahara, and if there were to be no change in this regard, it trusts that underexpenditures will be reflected in the relevant performance report.

16. The Advisory Committee welcomes the restructuring of the air operations requirements. In its previous report on MINURSO (A/50/802), the Advisory Committee recommended particular attention be paid to restricting the use of aircraft to essential operational needs and that the most cost-effective contractual arrangement be made with aircraft suppliers. Based on the new terms of a contract, requirements for the hiring and operation of the required fleet, consisting of three helicopters, two Antonov AN-26 aircraft and one Beechcraft fixed-wing aircraft, have decreased from $8,748,000 for the previous 12-month period to $7,702,000 for the upcoming period, with a more rationalized use of block and extra hours available.

17. The Advisory Committee also notes that the provision under item 5, Transport operations, of $1,769,000, includes $293,000 for the purchase of nine new vehicles (see para. 19 below). This provision also includes $1,465,000,

which covers the freight charges for transporting 85 vehicles from Brindisi, spare parts, insurance and fuel to maintain and operate MINURSO's vehicle establishment of 320 units. The Advisory Committee was further informed that 78 out of those 85 vehicles were replacing existing ones in MINURSO.

18. The Advisory Committee also notes an amount of $622,000 is provided under item 3, Premises/accommodation. In its previous report on MINURSO (A/49/771/Add.1 of 29 March 1995), the Advisory Committee requested information on the occupancy of 50 rental apartments, as well as other accommodation provided to United Nations staff. Paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report (A/50/655/Add.1) indicates that these apartments were not required as envisaged, since the Identification Commission never operated at its full capacity as originally planned.

19. However, item 6 (a) of annex II.D to the same report indicates that a provision has been made for the rental of 70 apartments, at a cost of $400 per month per unit, in anticipation of the additional deployment of civilian personnel over and above the number deployed for the period ending 30 June 1996, and in the absence of confirmation from the host Government of the provision of additional premises. The Advisory Committee was informed that a better price had been obtained reducing the cost from $700 to $400 per unit, with all units being located in the same building. The Advisory Committee trusts that this contract will not be entered into unless it is ascertained that these accommodations are actually required, and that any action will depend on the decision taken by the Security Council regarding the future of the Mission. The same recommendation applies to the provision for the nine new vehicles mentioned in paragraph 17 above.

20. Paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report indicates the actions that appear to be needed to be taken by the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session in connection with the financing of MINURSO. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal that the Assembly appropriate the amount of $44,740,000 gross ($40,768,800 net) for the operation of MINURSO for the period from 1 October 1995 to 31 May 1996, already authorized and assessed under the terms of Assembly resolution 49/247. The Advisory Committee also recommends appropriation and assessment of the amount of $5,592,500 gross ($5,096,100 net) for the financing of MINURSO from 1 to 30 June 1996, subject to a decision by the Security Council to extend the mandate beyond 31 May 1996; as well as the appropriation and assessment of the amount of $52,335,000 gross ($48,456,000 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period beginning on 1 July 1996, to be assessed at the rate of $4,361,250 gross ($4,038,000 net) per month, subject to the extension of the mandate by the Security Council. It is evident, nevertheless, that the Advisory Committee is making these recommendations on the assumption that the Mission will continue; but if the Security Council were to change the mandate of MINURSO, or decide on down-sizing or withdrawal, the Secretary-General should report back to the General Assembly with revised cost estimates for the Mission.

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19 April 1996
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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 8 and 44

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and on its instructions, I have the honour to transmit to you the decision, adopted by the Movement at this morning's meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, requesting that the fiftieth session of the General Assembly be resumed under agenda item 44, entitled "The situation in the Middle East", in order to consider the Israeli military attacks against Lebanon and their consequences.

(Signed) Andelfo GARCIA
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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22 April 1996

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Fiftieth session
Agenda items 8 and 44

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairperson of the Islamic Group at the United Nations to inform you that, at an urgent meeting of the Islamic Group held at the ambassadorial level today, the Islamic Group unanimously decided to support a request made by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, Ambassador Samir Moubarak, to you to convene on a very urgent basis a resumed session of the General Assembly, to consider the Israeli military attacks on Lebanon.

Therefore, I have the honour to request, on behalf of the 52 States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, that a resumed session of the General Assembly be convened at a very early date, to consider the Israeli military attacks on Lebanon and their consequences.

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 44.

(Signed) Mahawa Bangoura CAMARA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairperson of the Islamic Group
at the United Nations

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ANNEX

Press release issued on 19 April 1996 by the Islamic Group

On Friday, 19 April 1996, the Islamic Group met at the ambassadorial level at United Nations Headquarters, New York, to consider the grave situation arising from the fierce Israeli attacks on the civilian population in Lebanon.

In a series of interventions, the ambassadors of the 52-nation Islamic Group expressed their grave concern and sorrow over the serious injuries and loss of lives sustained by civilian men, women and children in the Israeli aerial attacks over Beirut and other locations in Lebanon. They condemned in the strongest terms the Israeli aerial bombing, which even targeted a UNIFIL compound causing serious bodily harm and death to those civilians who had sought refuge there, resulting also in the death of two Fijian military officers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, as well as causing the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians and massive destruction of Lebanon's infrastructure.

The Islamic Group also called in no uncertain terms for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries and full implementation by Israel of all relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 425 (1978).

The Islamic Group decided to address a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations calling for the urgent convening of a resumed session of the General Assembly to consider the situation and to put pressure on Israel to end forthwith its military action in Lebanon and its illegal occupation of southern Lebanon.

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S/1996/314
23 April 1996

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 44
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on the latest Israeli bombing in southern Lebanon.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the latest Israeli bombings in southern Lebanon

The news of so many dead and wounded Lebanese refugees and of the 120 wounded in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) camp has been received by the European Union with shock and profound consternation. The European Union believes that this escalation of senseless violence which is felling so many innocent lives must be absolutely stopped and renews its appeal to all parties concerned to cease immediately all military activities in the area.

Rome, 18 April 1996.

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A/50/943
23 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 112

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to refer to document A/50/927-S/1996/262 of 11 April 1996, containing the text of a statement by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir at New York on 2 April 1996.

The Official Spokesman of the Government of India issued a statement in New Delhi on 3 April 1996 (see annex) rejecting the false allegations made in the OIC Contact Group's statement under reference.

I would appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112.

(Signed) Prakash SHAH
Permanent Representative

* At the request of the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, a similar letter, transmitting the text of the statement contained in the annex to the present letter, was previously issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/1996/309.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Official Spokesman of the Government of India

We have seen a statement issued in New York on 2 April 1996 by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir making false allegations about recent incidents in Kashmir. The statement, which is clearly the handiwork of Pakistan, shows that OIC continues to be used by that country to purvey anti-India propaganda.

2. Contrary to what is stated in the OIC Contact Group statement, in the recent incidents at the Hazratbal Shrine the terrorists sought to desecrate the holy place which they had forcibly occupied and later threatened from an adjacent building to do the same. The action of the State Police was in response to the threat to the holy shrine from the terrorists and to protect themselves from the attacks launched by the terrorists against them. The terrorist groups and their mentors in Pakistan who are responsible for the violence in Kashmir bear the responsibility for the suffering and sorrow which are the inevitable companions of violence.

3. It has already been clarified and it is reiterated that the kidnapping and tragic murder of Jalil Andrabi was not a custodial death. The security forces had no hand whatsoever in this tragedy. Senior police officials are investigating the case and no effort will be spared to apprehend those who have been guilty of this heinous crime.

4. Along with the rest of the country, Jammu and Kashmir will soon elect members to the Lok Sabha. This electoral exercise will witness the resumption of the political process. Pakistan is doing its utmost to thwart that process in Jammu and Kashmir, for it wishes to continue the relentless and ruthless proxy war which it is waging against India. It will not help the process of restoring normalcy and peace in Jammu and Kashmir if the OIC Contact Group permits itself to be used by Pakistan to issue inaccurate and provocative statements against India.

New Delhi, 3 April 1996.

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A/50/944
24 April 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 20 (c)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the State serving as chairman in the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration by the Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine in connection with the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, adopted in Moscow on 12 April 1996 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (c).

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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ANNEX

Declaration by the Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijani Republic, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and Ukraine in connection with the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, adopted on 12 April 1996

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement of 9 September 1994 on the Social Welfare and Health Protection of Citizens Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Result of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Disasters and Accidents and of Nuclear Tests,

Recognizing that, owing to its consequences, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is a global radiological disaster,

Aware of their responsibility to the population affected by the disaster and to the participants in the elimination of its consequences,

Considering that a number of problems related to the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has remained unsolved, and their desire to make every possible effort to solve these problems,

Declare that all measures within the power of their Governments shall be taken to resettle the inhabitants from the areas of compulsory evacuation, offer assistance to those who have moved to a new residence, ensure that treatment and prophylactic centres and housing are made available to those affected by the Chernobyl disaster and other radiological accidents and disasters, continue to provide technical and financial support for coordinated scientific research on radiation medicine, agricultural radiology and the rehabilitation of contaminated territories, and strengthen cooperation with international, State, public and private organizations and funds in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and other radiological disasters.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement shall consider the possibility of allocating the necessary resources from their State budgets with a view to offering the aforementioned category of citizens privileges and compensation, and they call upon the heads of enterprises and organizations of all forms of ownership to explore opportunities for providing additional material assistance to affected citizens, including payment for their travel to and stays at sanatoriums and health resorts, medical treatment, medicines and ecologically pure foodstuffs.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement consider it expedient that the Mir Inter-State Television and Radio Company and other mass media of the States members of the Commonwealth improve their coverage of the implementation of State and inter-State programmes to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, measures to provide health care to those affected by

the accident and to members of their families, and the activities of administrative, economic and entrepreneurial structures and public organizations to ensure the social welfare of the aforementioned category of citizens.

The Governments of the States parties to the Agreement shall endeavour to coordinate their actions to protect the health and ensure the social welfare of citizens affected by the Chernobyl accident and other radiological disasters, including the participants in the elimination of their consequences.

For the Government of the Republic of Armenia:

(Signed) H. A. BAGRATIAN

For the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic:

(Signed) A. Dj. DJUMAGULOV

For the Government of the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) F. H. QULIEV

For the Government of the Republic of Moldova:

(Signed) A. N. SANGHELI

For the Government of the Republic of Belarus:

(Signed) M. N. CHYGIR

For the Government of the Russian Federation:

(Signed) V. S. CHERNOMYRDIN

For the Government of Georgia:

(Signed) N. M. LEKISHVILI

For the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan:

(Signed) Ya. N. AZIMOV

For the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan:

(Signed) A. M. KAZHEGELDIN

For the Government of Ukraine:

(Signed) E. K. MARCHUK